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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/RSP, AND USCOMPAC FOR POLAD COMPACFLT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/2017
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MCAP](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [MY](#)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2008 USNS MERCY VISIT TO MALAYSIA

REF: MEMO EAP/RSP TO POLAD COMPACFLT 10/16/2007

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission David B. Shear
for reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(S/NF) Post looks forward to cooperating with COMPACFLT on the future visit of the USNS Mercy, and seeks to clarify our mission objectives in regards to the Mercy's visit to Malaysia. Due to political and diplomatic sensitivities with the Government of Malaysia, we cannot recommend the Mercy visit the state of Sabah. It is the desire of the Country Team that, as with previous visits of the USNS Mercy and the USS Peleliu, we invite the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) to participate in regional exercises by sending riders along to other countries to provide assistance with the US team where medical assistance is offered. We note that Malaysia is a donor nation in these types of exchanges and not an aid recipient and believe that our best course of action will be to address the USNS Mercy's visit through an upcoming series of USN visits to Malaysia. We note that VADM Crowder and RDML Tyson are both scheduled to visit Malaysia in the next two months and that this provides an excellent opportunity to approach the RMN on the most productive use of the USNS Mercy's visit to Malaysia. We welcome PACFLT's engagement in Malaysia and look forward to cooperating closely on the USNS Mercy's upcoming visit.
KEITH